

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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STEVEN A. WILLIAMS,

Plaintiff,

14 Civ. 4390 (JGK)

- against -

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND  
ORDER

ROSENBLATT SECURITIES INC., ET AL.,

Defendants.

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JOHN G. KOELTL, District Judge:

The Court has received the pro se plaintiff's request for appointment of counsel. However, from the papers provided, the Court cannot determine that the necessary showing for appointment of counsel has been met. The Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has articulated factors that should guide the Court's discretion to appoint counsel to represent an indigent civil litigant under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. See Hodge v. Police Officers, 802 F.2d 58, 61-62 (2d Cir. 1986). For the Court to order the appointment of counsel, the plaintiff must, as a threshold matter, demonstrate that his claim has substance or a likelihood of success on the merits. See Hodge, 802 F.2d at 60-61. Only then can the Court consider the other factors appropriate to determination of whether counsel should be appointed: "plaintiff's ability to obtain representation independently, and his ability to handle the case without assistance in the light of the required factual investigation,

the complexity of the legal issues, and the need for expertly conducted cross-examination to test veracity." Cooper v. A. Sargenti Co., Inc., 877 F.2d 170, 172 (2d Cir. 1989); see also Kinlock v. Yourth, No. 11cv8696 (JGK), 2012 WL 1963376, at \*1 (S.D.N.Y. May 30, 2012).

The plaintiff has not yet made such a showing. The plaintiff's application for the Court to appoint counsel is therefore **denied without prejudice** for failure to make the required showing at this time. The Clerk is directed to close Docket No. 161.

**SO ORDERED.**

**Dated: New York, New York  
October 27, 2015**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**John G. Koeltl  
United States District Judge**